A REMONSTRANCE PRESENTED TO HIS MAIESTIE

by the PARLIAMENT in *June*, *Ann. Dom.* 1628.

& 3°. Caroli Regis.

VVherein is discovered, the great danger that *England* and *Ireland* lay under; and the *Parliaments* care to have secured them. As also the names of some of the Enemies of the State, as Dr. *Laud*, &c.

Most dread Soveraign,

AS with all humble thankfulnesse we your dutifull *Commons* in Parliament assembled, do acknowledge the great comfort we have in the assurance of your Majesties pious and gracious dispositions; So we think it a most necessary duty (being called by your Majestie to consult and advise of the great and urgent affairs of this Church and Common-wealth, finding them at this time in apparant danger of destruction) faithfully and dutifully to inform your Majestie thereof: and with bleeding hearts and bended knees to crave such speedie redresse therein, as to your wisdom (unto which we humbly submit our selves and our desires) shall seem meet and convenient.

What by the multitude and potency of your Majesties enemies abroad, what by their malicious and ambitious ends, and how vigilant and constantly industrious they are in pursuing the same, is well known unto your Majestie, together with the dangers threatned thereby to your sacred person and your Kingdoms, and the calamity which hath already fallen, and daily hath increased upon your friends and Alleys, of all which we are well assured your Majestie is most sensible, and will accordingly in your own great wisdom, and with the graver and most mature Counsell and exegency of the times and occasions, provide by all good means to prevent and help the same. To which end we most humbly entreat your Majestie:

First, and especially to cast your eyes upon the miserable condition of this your own Kingdom of late so strangely weakned, impoverished and rejected, that unlesse through your Majesties most gracious wisdom, goodnesse, and justice, it be speedily raised to a better condition, it is in no little danger to become a sudden prey to the enemies thereof, and of the most happy and flou-

rishing, to be the most miserable and contemptible Nation in the world. In the discovery of which dangers, mischiefs and inconveniences being upon us, we do freely protest that it is far from our thoughts to lay the least imputation upon your Majesties sacred person, or the least scandall upon your government: for we do in all sincerity, and with joyfulnesse of our hearts, not onely for our selves, but in the name of all the Commons of the Realm whom we represent, ascribe as much honour to your Majestie, and acknowledgement of dutie, as a most loyall and affectionate people can give to the best King; for so you are, and so you have been pleased abundantly to expresse your self this present Parliament by your Majesties clear and satisfactory Answer to our Petition of Right; for which our selves and our posterities shal blesse God, and ever preserve a thankfull memory of your great goodnesse and justice therein. And we do hereby beleeve, that all or most of these things which we shall now present unto your Majestie, are either altogether unknown to you, or else by some of your Majesties Ministers offered under such specious pretences as may hide their own bad intentions and ill consequence of them from your Majestie. But we assure our selves, that according to the good example of your noble predecessors, nothing can make your Majestie, being a wise and judicious Prince, and above all things desirous of the welfare of your people, more in love with Parliaments than this which is one of the principall ends of calling them, that therein you may be truly informed of the state of several parts of your Kingdom, and how your Officers and Ministers do behave themselves in the discharge of the trust reposed in them by your Majestie; which is scarce possible to be made known unto you but in Parliament, as was declared by your blessed Father when he was pleased to put the [illegible] Parliament assembled in mind, that it would be greatest unfaithfulnesse and breach of dutie to his Majestie, and of the trust committed to them by their Countrey that could be, in setting forth the grievances of the people, and conditions of all the parts of this Kingdom, and whence they came, they did not deal clearly with him, without sparing any, how dear and neer soever they were unto him, if they were dangerous or hurtfull to the Common-wealth. In confidence therefore of your Majesties most ready and gracious acceptation in a matter of so high importance, in faithfull discharge of our duties we do; First of all, most humbly beseech your Majestie to take notice, that howsoever we know that your Majestie doth with your soul abhorre that any such thing should be imagined or attempted, yet there is a generall fear conceived in your people of some secret working and combination to introduce into this your Kingdom Innovation, and change of our Religion is more precious to us than that our lives and whatsoever this world can afford. Our fears and jealousies herein are not meerly conjecturall, but arising out of such certain and visible effects, as may demonstrate a true and reall cause. For notwithstanding the many good and wholesome Laws made to prevent the encrease of Poperie within this Kingdom, and notwithstanding your Majesties most gracious and satisfactory Answer to the Petition of both Houses in that behalf presented to your Majestie at *Oxon*, we find there hath followed no good

execution

execution or effect. But on the contrary (at which your Majestie out of quick sence of your own religious and pious heart cannot but be in the highest measure displeased) those of that religion do find extraordinarie favours and respects in Court from persons of great qualitie and power there, unto whom they continually resort; And in particular is the Countesse of *Buckingham*, who, her self openly professing that religion, is a known favourer and supporter of them that do the same; which we well hoped upon your Majesties Answer to the aforesaid Petition at *Oxon*, should not have been permitted. Nor that any of your Majesties Subjects of that religion, or justly to be suspected, should be entertain'd into your Majesties service, or of your royall Consort the Queen: Some likewise of that religion have had Honors, Offices and places of Command and Authority lately conferred: But that which striketh the greatest terrors into the hearts of your loyall Subjects concerning this point, is, the letters for stay of legall proceeding against them have been procured from your Majestie (by what indirect means we know not) & Commissions under the great Seal granted and executed for composition to be made with Popish Recusants. Inhibitions also and restraints both to the Ecclesiasticall and temporall Courts and Officers to intermeddle with them; which is conceived to amount to no lesse than a toleration, odious to God, full of dishonour, and great scandall and grief to your people, and of the apparent danger of the present estate of your Majestie, and of this Kingdom. And in especiall, about *London* and the Suburbs thereof, where exceeding many families of them do make their aboad: A frequent Masse at Denmark House and other places; and by their often meetings and conferences, have unhappy opportunities of combining their counsels and strength together, to the hazard of your Majesties safetie and the State: and most especially in these doubtfull and calamitous times. But as our fear concerning change and subversion of Religion, is grounded upon the daily increase of Papists, the open and professed enemies thereof, for the reasons formerly mentioned: So are the hearts of your Subjects no lesse perplexed, then with sorrow they behold the daily growth and spreading of the faction of *Arminians*, (that being as your Majestie well knows) a cunning way to bring in Poperie, the professors of these opinions the common disturbers of the Protestant Churches, and incendiaries of those states wherein they have gotten any head, being Protestants in shew, and Jesuites in opinion and practise, which caused your royall Father with so much pious wisdom and ardent zeal, to endeavour the suppressing of them, as well at home, as in the neighbour Countreys. And your gracious Majestie (imitating his most worthy example) hath openly by your Proclamation declared your mislike of these persons, and of their opinions, who notwithstanding are much favoured and advanced, not wanting even of the Clergie neer to your Majestie, by name D^r *Neile* Bishop of Winchester, and D^r *Laud* Bishop of Bath and Wells, who are justly suspected to be unsound in their opinion that way. And it being now generally the way to preferment and promotion in the Church, many Scholars do bend their studies to maintain those errors: their books and opinions are suffered to be printed and published; And

Countesse of *Buck.*

Petition at *Oxon.*

Papists placed in authority.

Letters for stay of proceeding against Papists.

Composition with Recusants

Inhibitions.

Toleration dangerous.

Arminians.

Dr *Neile.*
Dr *Laud.*

on the other side, the suppression of such as are written against them, and in the defence of the Orthodox Religion are hindred and prohibited: And which is boldnesse almost incredible, this restraint of orthodox bookes is made under colour of your Majesties formerly mentioned Proclamation, the intent and meaning whereof, we know was quite contrary. And further to increase our fears concerning Innovation in Religion, we find that there hath been no small labouring to remove that which is the most powerfull means to strengthen and increase our own Religion, and to oppose the contrary, which is diligent teaching and instructing the people in the true knowledge and worship of Almightie God, and therefore means have been sought out to depose and discountenance pious, painfull, and orthodox Preachers: and how conformable soever, and peaceable in their disposition and carriage they be, yet the preferment of such is opposed; and instead of being encouraged, they are molested by vexatious courses, and pursuits, and hardly admitted to lecture even in those places where are no constant preaching Ministers, whereby many of your good people (whose souls in this case we beseech your Majesty to commiserate) are kept in ignorance, and are apt to be easily seduced to errour and superstition. It doth not a little also increase our dangers and fears this way, to understand the miserable condition of your Kingdom of *Ireland*, where without controull the Popish religion is openly professed and practised in every part thereof, Popish jurisdiction being generally exercised and avowed, Monasteries, Nunneries and other superstitious houses newly erected, re-edified and repleniſhed with men and women of severall Orders, and in a plentifull manner maintained in *Dublin*, and most of the great Towns, and divers other places of the Kingdom, which of what ill consequence it may prove (if not seasonably repress) we leave to your Majesties wisdom to judge: but most humblie beseech you (as we assure our selves) to lay your serious consideration thereof, to your royall and pious heart, and that some timely course may be taken for redresse therein. And now if to all these your Majestie will be pleased to adde the consideration of the circumstance of time, wherein these courses tending to the destruction of true Religion within these Kingdoms, have been taken even at such time, when the same is with open force and violence persecuted in other Countreys, and all the reformed Churches of Christendome either depressed or miserably distressed, we do humblie appeal to your Majesties princely judgement, whether there be not a just ground of fear, that there is some secret and strange cooperating there with the enemies of our Religion abroad for the utter extirpation thereof; and whether if it be not speedily redrest, and the profession of true Religion more encouraged, we can expect any other but miserie and ruine speedily to fall upon us, especially if besides the visible and apparant dangers wherewith we are compassed round about, you would be pleased piously to remember the displeasure of Almightie God alwayes bent against the neglect of this holy Religion; the strokes of whose divine justice we have already felt, and do still feel with smart and sorrow in great measure: And beside this fear of innovation in Religion, we do in like faithfull discharge of our duties most humblie declare to

Ireland.

Nunneries and superstitious houses

your

your Majestie, that the hearts of your people are full of fear of innovation and change in government, and accordingly possest with great grief and sorrow; Yet in this point by your Majesties late Answer to our Petition of Right touching our Liberties, much comforted, and raised again, out of that fullennesse and discontent which they generally had conceived throughout the whole Kingdom, all the undue courses which were the last yeer taken for raysing of money by Loans, then which (what ever your Majestie hath been informed to the contrary) there was never any money demanded or paid with greater grief and generall dislike of all your faithfull Subjects; though many partly out of fear, and partly out of other respects, yet most unwillingly, were drawn to yeeld to what was then required. Petition of Right. Loan.

The billiting of Souldiers did much augment both our fears and our griefs, wherein likewise they find much comfort, upon your late gracious Answer to the Petition of Right, and to that which we presented to your Majestie concerning that particular, yet we humblie beseech your Majestie that we may enform you, that the still continuance and late re-inforcing of the number of those Souldiers, the condition of their persons, many of them not being natives of this Kingdom, nor of the same, but somewhat of an opposite religion, the placing of them beneath the Sea-coasts, where making head amongst themselves, they may unite with a Papist partie at home (if occasion serve) or joyn with an invading Enemie to do extream mischief: and that they are not yet imployed nor dismissed, doth still minister cause of jealousie to your loving Subjects, and cannot be continued without exceeding great danger, of the peace and safetie of your Kingdom. The report of the strange and dangerous purpose of bringing in the *Germaine* horse and Riders would have turned our doubts into dispairs, and our fears into certainty of confusion, had not your Majesties gracious Message (for which we give you humble thanks) comforted us with the assurance of your royall word, that they neither are, nor ever were intended by your Majestie for any service in *England*, but they were designed for some forraign employment; yet the sight of the Privie Seal by which (it seemeth) they were to be leavied for this place; the great summe of money which upon examination had been made over for that purpose; that much about the same time there was a Commission under the great Seal granted to the Lords and others of your Privie Councell to consider, as of other wayes of raising of moneys, so particularly by imposition, gives us just cause of suspect, that whatsoever was your Majesties own gracious intention, yet there wanted not those that under some colourable pretence might secretly by this, as by other wayes, contrive to change both the form of Religion and government, and thereby to undermine the safetie both of your Majestie and of your Kingdom: Such men could not be ignorant, that the bringing in of strangers for aid hath been alwayes pernicious to any State where they have been admitted, but to *England* fatall. We do blesse God that hath given to your Majestie a wise and understanding heart, to discern the mischief of such courses, and that such power produces nothing but weaknesse and calamitie. And we beseech your Majestie to pardon the vehe- Billiting of Souldiers.

menoie of our expreſſions, which in loyall and zealous affections we bear to your Majeſtie and your ſervice; We are bold to declare to your Majeſtie and the whole world, that we hold it far beneath the heart of any *Engliſh* man to think that this victorious Nation ſhould now ſtand in need of *Germaine* Souldiers to defend their own King and Kingdom. But when we conſider the courſes formerly mentioned concerning the undermining of Religion, and thoſe things tending to an apparant change of government; the often breaches of Parliaments, whereby you have been deprived of the faithfull Counſels and free aids of your people. The taking of Tonnage and Poundage without any grant thereof by Act of Parliament ever ſince the beginning of your Majeſties reign. The ſtanding Commiſſion granted to the Duke of *Buckingham*; And in time of peace the diſplacing of faithfull Officers and Miniſters, ſome from Judiciall place, and others from the Offices and Authorities which formerly they held in the Common-wealth; we cannot but at the ſight of ſuch approaching deſolations as muſt neceſſarily follow theſe courſes, even out of the depth of ſorrow lift up our cries to heaven for help, and next under God, humble our ſelves to your ſacred Majeſtie, and falling down at your feet to beſeech you to hearken to the voice of all your people, which if you could hear ſo many thouſands ſpeaking together, they would all joyntly implore help and reformation. And if yet your Majeſtie will be pleaſed to take a preſent view of the preſent eſtate of your Realm, we do humbly pray you to conſider whether the miſerable diſaſters and ill ſucceſſe that hath accompanied all your late deſignes and actions; particularly thoſe of *Cales*, the *Iſle of Ree*, and the laſt expedition to *Rochell*, hath not waſted all that ſtock of Honour that was left unto this Kingdom, ſometime terrible to all other Nations, and now declining to a contempt beneath the meaneſt with our Honour there loſt, and that not a few who had they lived, we might have had ſome better hope of recovering it again; our valiant and expert Collonels, Captains and Commanders, and many thouſand common Souldiers and Marriners, though we have ſome cauſe to think that your Majeſtie is not rightly informed thereof, and that of ſome thouſands of your Subjects loſt in the *Iſle of Ree*, your Majeſtie received Information but of ſome few hundreds; and all that diſhonour and loſſe hath been purchaſed with the conſumption of a Million of treaſure.

Many of your Forts exceeding weak and decayed, and want both men and munition; and here we cannot but with grief conſider and complain of a ſtrange improvidence, your Majeſtie will rather call it treacherie, that your ſtore of powder which by order of your Privie Councell dated the tenth of December, 1626. ſhould be conſtantly 300. laſts, beſides a continuall ſupply of 20. laſts a moneth of ordinarie, and were now fit as we conceive to be doubled: that proportion which is at this time in the Tower, the preſent wants being ſerved, is but nine Laſts and 40. l. in all, which we tremble to think of, and that notwithſtanding this great ſcarſitie of powder, great quantities ſhould be permitted to be ſold out of your Majeſties ſtore to particular perſons for private gains, whereof we have ſeen a Certificate of 36 Laſts ſold

ſince

Often breaches of Parliament. Tunnage & Poundage.

Cales. *Iſle of Ree.* *Rochel.*

4. and 5. Head.

Powder. 10. of December, 1626.

ſince the fourth of Januarie laſt, and your Majeſties ſtore being unfurniſhed of powder, which by a Contract made by Maſter *Eveling* ought to be ſupplied monethly with 20 Laſts, at the rate of 3 l. 10 s. 10 d. the Barrell; your Majeſtie hath been forced to pay above 7 l. a Barrell, for powder to be brought in from beyond the Seas: For which purpoſe 12400 l. was impreſt to Mr *Burlamache* the laſt yeer, and that powder not ſo good as that which by contract your Majeſtie ſhould have of your own by one third part; all which are moſt ſtrange and dangerous abuſes.

But what povertie, weakneſſe and miſerie your Kingdom is now grown into by decay of trade, by deſtruction and loſſe of ſhips and Marriners within theſe three yeers laſt paſt, we are almoſt afraid to declare: And could we have been ſure that your Majeſtie ſhould any other way have had a true information thereof, we ſhould have been doubtfull to have made our weakneſſe and extremitie of misfortune to appear: But the importunate and moſt pitifull complaints from all the parts of the Kingdom neer adjoyning to the Seas in this Land; would rend (we think) the ſtonieſt heart in the world with ſorrow, and the ſence we have of the miſerable condition of your Kingdom is no by-reaſon thereof, eſpecially for that we ſee no preſent poſſible means, being now ſhortly to end this Seſſions, how to help the ſame; adde ſuch a weight of grief to our ſad thoughts, as we have no words to expreſſe it. For your Majeſties moſt exact information herein, we beſeech you to be pleaſed to prove the Calender of particulars with this Remonſtrance which we now moſt humblie preſent unto your Majeſtie. 6. and 7. Heads.

One reaſon of this decay of Trade, and loſſe of ſhips and Marriners, is the not guarding of the Seas; the Regality whereof, your Majeſtie hath now in a manner wholly loſt, and that wherein a principall part of the honour and ſafetie of this Kingdom heretofore conſiſted, in having the abſolute command of the Seas, is ſo now neglected, that the Town of *Dunkirk* doth ſo continually beat, rob and ſpoil your Subjects, that we can aſſure your Majeſtie if ſome preſent and effectuall remedie be not forthwith provided, the whole body of this Kingdom, and the ſhipping and Marriners belonging thereunto, will be meerly loſt and conſumed. *Dunkirk.*

The principall cauſe of which evils and dangers, we conceive to be the exceſſive power of the Duke of *Buckingham*, and the abuſe of that power; and we moſt humblie ſubmit it to your Majeſties moſt excellent wiſdom, whether it can be ſafe either for you or your Kingdom, that ſo great power as reſts in him both by Sea and Land ſhould be in the hand of any one Subject whatſoever. Sure we are, it cannot be for your ſervice, it being impoſſible for one man to manage ſo many and ſo weightie affairs of the Kingdom as he hath undertaken, beſides the ordinarie duties of thoſe great Offices which he holds, ſome of which well performed, would require the time and induſtrie of the ableſt man both for counſell and action that could be found in your whole Kingdom (eſpecially in theſe times of common danger) And our humble deſire is, that your moſt excellent Majeſtie would be pleaſed to take into conſideration, whether in reſpect the ſame Duke hath ſo abuſed his power, it be 9. Head. Duke of *Buck.*

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safe for your Majestie and your Kingdom, to continue him either in his great Offices of trust, or in his place of neerneſſe of counsell about your sacred person.

And thus in all humility aymeing at nothing but the honour of Almightie God, the maintenance of his true Religion, the safetie and happineſſe of your most excellent Majestie, and the preservation and prosperitie of this Church and Common-wealth; We have endeavoured with faithfull hearts and intentions, and in discharge of the dutie we owe to your Majestie and our Countrey, to give you a true presentation of our present danger and pressing calamities, which we humbly beseech your Majestie graciously to accept, and take the same to heart, accounting the safetie and prosperitie of your people, your greatest happineſſe; and their love your richest treasure. A ruefull and lamentable spectacle, we confesse, it must needs be, to behold these ruines in so fair a house; so many diseases, and almost everie one of them deadly, in so strong and well tempered a body (as this Kingdom lately was) yet we will not doubt but that God hath reserved this honour for your Majestie to restore the safetie and happineſſe thereof again, as a work worthie so excellent a Prince; For whose long life and true felicitie we daily pray, that your fame and never dying glory may be continued to all succeeding generations.

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FINIS.